

# Maine's Scenic Byways



*Maine Department of Transportation*

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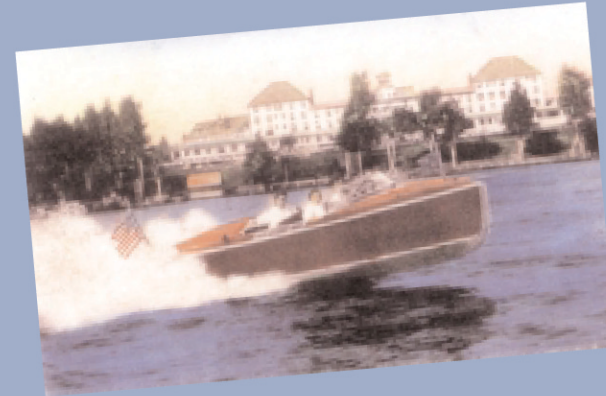
We would like to thank the Abbe Museum, the Rangley Lakes Region Historical Society and Margaret W. Fisher for securing historic images.





## Mountains

Maine's mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountain range that stretches along this country's east coast, were formed more than 400 million years ago when the continents of North America and Europe collided. The steady and enormous force of that impact caused the mountains to rise. The glaciers that covered much of North America 20,000 years ago carved out the deep lakes, and their melting waters created swift flowing rivers and lakes where modern day adventurers come to hike, camp, raft, kayak, canoe and fish. The scenic routes described in this section offer a taste of Maine's western mountains and an introduction to the people who have chosen to forge a life in this dramatic and unforgettable landscape.





A path  
defined by  
glaciers and  
swift-moving  
rivers and  
leading to  
lush valley  
farmlands

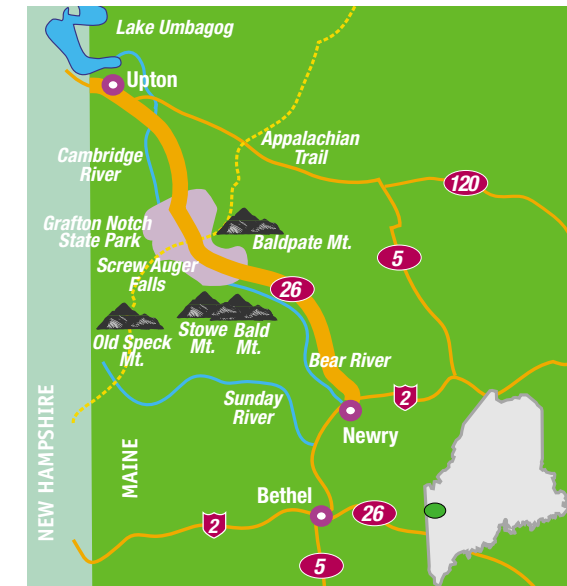
# Grafton Notch Scenic Byway

Route 26

Journeying along this rural two-lane road, a traveler gets a feeling for how beautiful — and challenging — life must have been for the

region's early settlers. Crumbled foundations of old farmhouses and weathered stone walls mark the landscape, much of which is now either a designated state park or privately-owned working forestland.

Originally a path defined by glaciers and swift-moving rivers that cut through the mountains and lead to lush valley farmlands, this route begins just a few miles north of the Sunday River Resort and travels along Route 26 leading into Grafton Notch State Park and to the border with New Hampshire. The Bear



River parallels the road for much of the way. Visitors traveling through Grafton Notch State Park should be sure to stop and explore the short hiking

paths leading to the park's sights, including Screw Auger Falls and Mother Walker Falls.

**Length:** 21 miles

**Travel Time:** 1 hour

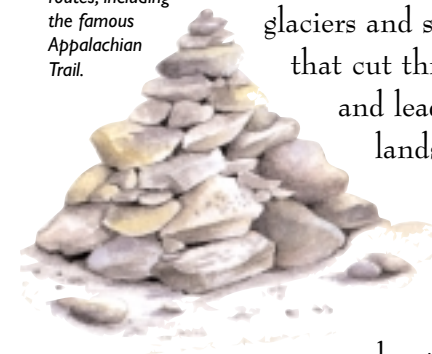
**Recreation:** Foliage viewing; Alpine and cross country skiing; bicycling; golf; hiking; wildlife watching

**Events:** Mollycokett Day, Harvest Fest, Chowdah Cook-Off

**Sidetrips:** Spruce Meadow (for picnicking); Appalachian Trail; Grafton Loop Trail, a 42-mile hiking trail, that connects the Appalachian Trail to some of the region's most impressive peaks; Deertrees Theatre, Sunday River Resort; Sunday River covered bridge

**Information:** Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, 800-442-5826; [www.bethelmaine.com](http://www.bethelmaine.com)

The landscape is dotted with weathered stone cairns that mark the area's excellent hiking routes, including the famous Appalachian Trail.





Classic  
clapboard  
homes  
harken back  
to boom days  
when lumber  
barons  
reigned over  
the  
surrounding  
forest

# Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway

U.S. Route 201



The Old Canada Road (U.S. Route 201) leads travelers on a trip through time. In towns like Bingham, classic clapboard homes line the streets and harken back to the boom days of the 19th and early 20th centuries when lumber barons reigned over the surrounding forest. In places like The Forks, modern day adventurers gather to camp in the backcountry and raft down swift-flowing rivers.

*During the 19th and early 20th centuries river drivers guided logs down the Kennebec River during timber harvests.*



Route 201 follows old river trading routes of the Abenaki tribe. Benedict Arnold made part of this interconnected network of waterways famous during the Revolutionary War when he led a tough band of soldiers up the Kennebec and Dead rivers in flat

bottom boats called bateaux, to lay siege to the French settlement at Quebec. Today, the vitality of the region is bolstered by the area's working

forests, and Route 201 remains an important trade route linking Canada and the U.S. with the international border crossing at Sandy Bay.

**Length:** 78 miles

**Travel Time:** 3 hours

**Recreation:** Backcountry camping; bicycling; boating; fishing; hiking; hunting; snowmobiling; swimming; whitewater rafting; foliage viewing; wildlife watching

**Sidetrips:** Whitewater rafting at The Forks where the Kennebec and Dead rivers meet; Solon-Bingham Rail Trail; boating on manmade Wyman Lake; Appalachian Trail; Lakewood Theater in Madison, one of the oldest, continuous operating summer music theaters in the U.S.

**Information:** Old Canada Road Scenic Byway, 207-672-3971; [canadard@midmaine.com](mailto:canadard@midmaine.com)



# Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway

State Routes 4 & 17



Routes 4 and 17 wrap around Rangeley Lake, the centerpiece of this scenic route, like a loose scarf. Beginning in the mid-1800s, sportsmen journeyed to this ruggedly pristine region in search of fabled 10 to 12 pound brook trout and landlocked salmon.

Today, this four-season destination attracts visitors who love the outdoors for fishing, camping, hiking, bicycling, boating, hunting, moosewatching, snowmobiling and skiing.

The route scales the Appalachian Mountain ridgeline before dropping to rolling valleys and hills.

The Height of Land on Route 17 is the route's showstopper, with stunning views of Mooselookmeguntic and Upper Richardson lakes, Toothaker Island and the richly forest-

ed mountainsides. Travelers search for moose that frequent the region's roadsides feeding on tender grasses, leaves and branches. This is also an excellent route for viewing

foliage in the autumn when the surrounding mountainsides are painted vivid orange, yellow and red.

**Length:** National designation 35.6 miles; Maine designation 51.75 miles

**Travel Time:** 2.5 hours

**Recreation:** Bicycling, boating, camping, fishing, golf hiking, hunting, moose watching, skiing, snowmobiling, tennis

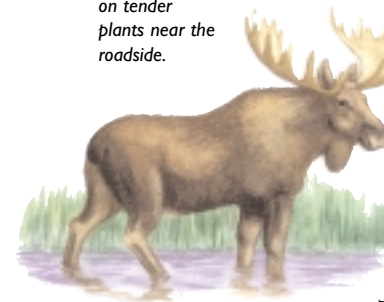
**Sidetrips:** Angel Falls; Appalachian Trail; Byron School House; Coos Canyon; Oquossoc village; Rangeley Lakes Historical Society; Rangeley Lakes State Park; Rangeley Logging Museum; Saddleback Mountain Ski Area; Wilhelm Reich Museum

**Events:** Rangeley Snowmobile Snodero; Saddleback Mountain Bronco Buster Challenge; Strawberry, Blueberry and Apple festivals; Logging Festival; Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day

**Information:** Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-685-2537; [www.rangeleymaine.com](http://www.rangeleymaine.com)

Stunning views of Rangeley, Mooselookmeguntic and Upper Richardson lakes and the richly forested mountainsides

Moose can often be seen at dawn and dusk, feeding on tender plants near the roadside.



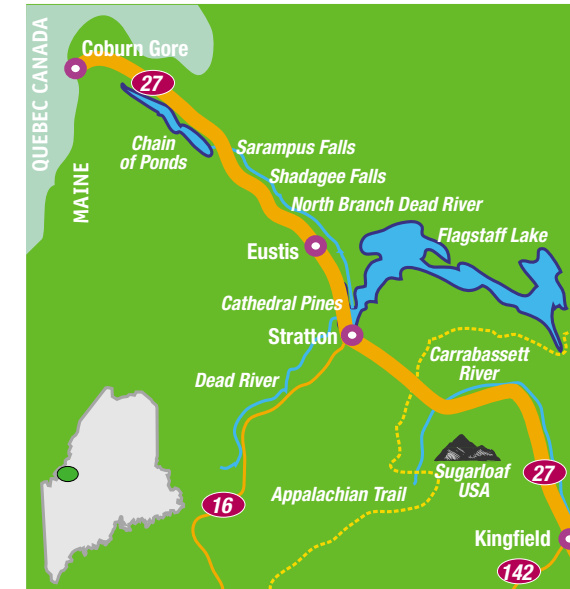
Sunset over Rangeley Lake. Michele Stapleton



The  
picturesque  
town of  
Kingfield, the  
swift-flowing  
Carrabassett  
River and  
views of the  
Bigelow  
Range

# State Route 27

*Kingfield to Coburn Gore*



Skiers and snowmobilers know this route well, as it connects the historic 19th century mill town of Kingfield with Sugarloaf USA, Stratton and Eustis. Travelers who venture beyond these popular winter destinations in any season will be rewarded with spectacular views all the way to the international border crossing at Coburn Gore.

In the south, this byway begins in the picturesque town of Kingfield and winds along the swift-flowing Carrabassett River with views of Mount Abraham and the Bigelow Range. North of Stratton, the route passes by the man-made Flagstaff Lake and through Cathedral Pines, the largest stand of old growth forest in the state. The majestic red pines cover 220 acres and date back 200 years. Route 27 then traces the

Dead River where Benedict Arnold led troops north on an ill-fated expedition to conquer the city of Quebec. North of Eustis, the landscape grows wilder as the route passes

Shadagee Falls, Sarampus Falls and the Chain of Ponds. Continuing on, the route climbs through the Boundary Mountains to Coburn Gore and the international border.

**Length:** 47 miles

**Travel Time:** 1.5 hours

**Recreation:** Alpine and cross country skiing; bicycling; boating; camping; fishing; golf; hiking; hunting; mountain biking; wildlife watching; foliage viewing; whitewater rafting

**Events:** Kingfield Days, Old Home Days

**Sidetrips:** Stanley Museum; Sugarloaf USA; Carrabasset Valley Touring Center; Carrabasset Valley Anti Gravity Center; "Moose Alley" (Route 16 between Stratton and Rangeley); Narrow Gauge Railroad Trail; Appalachian Trail

**Information:** Sugarloaf Area Chamber of Commerce, 207-235-2645;  
[www.sugarloafareachamber.org](http://www.sugarloafareachamber.org)

*During the Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold led a band of American soldiers up the Dead River in flat-bottom boats called bateaux to lay siege to the city of Quebec.*



*Carrabassett River. Michele Stapleton*





## Downeast and ‘The County’

The rocky shores of Maine’s downeast coast were formed 20,000 years ago when the great glaciers of the Ice Age settled on the coastal plains. The weight of the ice created what is known as the “drowned coast,” with deepwater harbors, hundreds of islands and the eastern United States’ only fjord. The land and the sea has supported a succession of cultures, beginning with Native people and later the French and the English, who fought bitterly over the territory until the Peace of Paris in 1763, more than 12 years before the Declaration of Independence. Today, picturesque fishing villages sit alongside grand hotels and “cottages” built during the early 20th century for wealthy visitors escaping the summer heat in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.



Following U.S. Route 1 north, travelers turn inland and trace the St. Croix River and the international border with Canada. Maine has two scenic byways in this uniquely beautiful land known as “The County.”



Twenty-six  
mountains,  
22 lakes  
and ponds,  
beaches  
and other  
natural  
wonders on  
this island

# Acadia Byway – All-American Road

*Route 3 and Acadia National Park Loop Road*

Long before the French explorer Samuel Champlain “discovered” L’Isles des Monts Deserts (Mount Desert Island) and the British and French fought nearly 100 years for sovereignty over the region, Native cultures made this beautiful island their home.

In the first half of the 20th century, a number of wealthy families built sprawling shingle-style cottages with John D. Rockefeller, Jr., contributing a vast network of carriage roads.

Modern day visitors still bike and hike under a canopy of trees along these “broken stone” roads to visit the 26 mountains, 22 lakes and ponds, beaches and other natural wonders on this island. Connected to the mainland by a causeway, Mount Desert and Acadia National Park are the most frequently visited



locations in Maine. Visitors looking to avoid the heavy seasonal traffic can travel the Acadia Byway aboard the free Island Explorer bus network that connects the park with inns, campgrounds and the island’s village centers.

**Length:** 40 miles

**Travel Time:** 3 hours

**Recreation:** Bicycling; canoeing; cross country skiing; hiking; horseback riding; kayaking; sailing; swimming; whale watching; foliage viewing,

**Sidetrips:** Cadillac Mountain; Echo Lake, Hull’s Cove School House and Church of Our Father (National Register), Isle au Haut, Jesup Memorial Library, Jordan Pond House, Sand Beach, Sieur de Monts Spring, Thunder Hole, The Turrets and other National Register buildings at College of the Atlantic, Wild Gardens of Acadia, Abbe Museum

**Events:** Arcady Music Festival, Bar Harbor Music Festival, Blessing of the Fleet, National Park Day, Native American Festival, Open Garden Day, Warblers and Wildflowers Festival

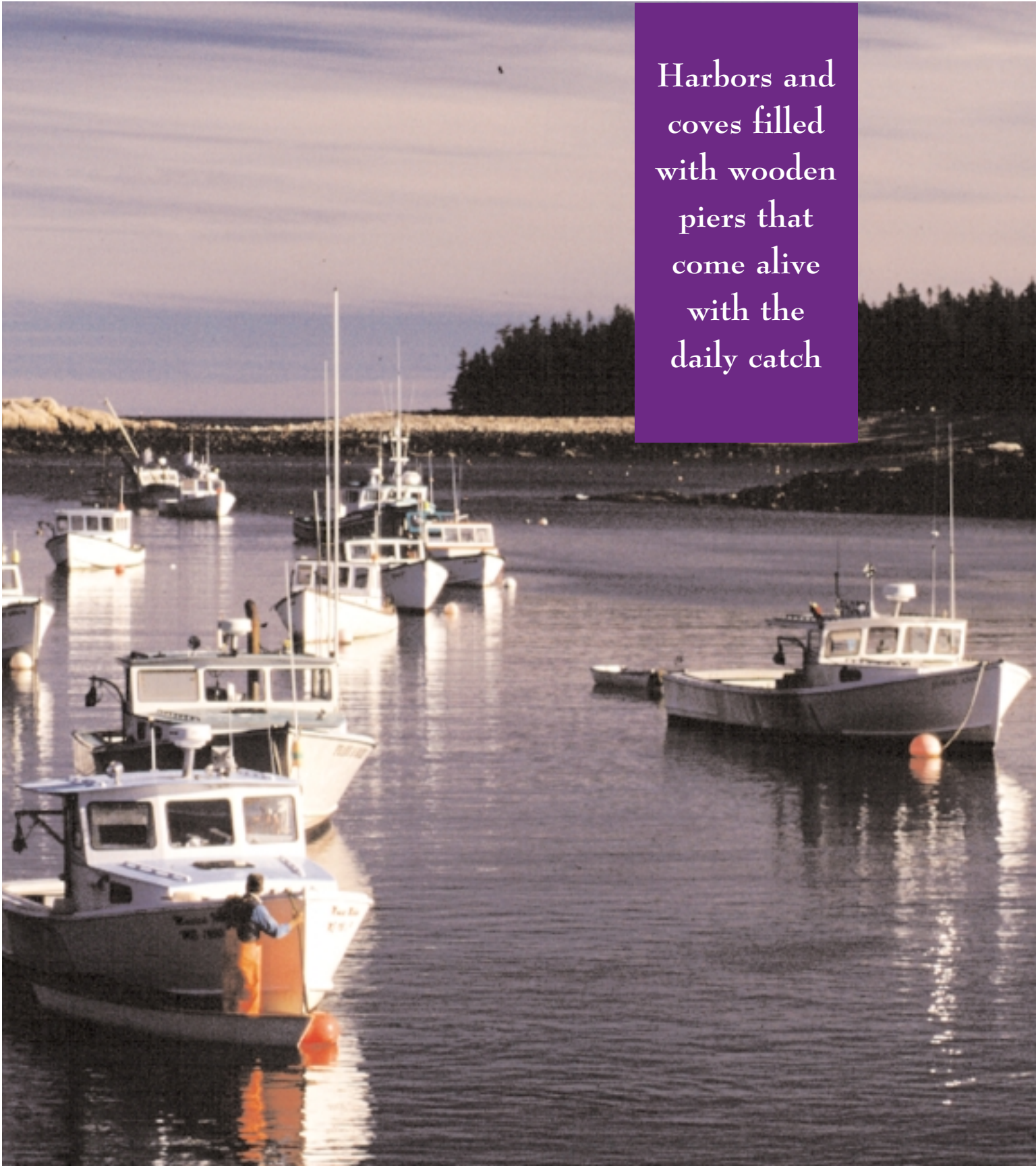
**Information:** Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, (207) 288-5103, [www.barharborinfo.com](http://www.barharborinfo.com); Acadia National Park, [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad)

*Intricate hand-woven baskets made by Wabani families were popular among wealthy Victorian visitors to Mount Desert.*



*Sunrise at Otter Cliffs. Michele Stapleton*

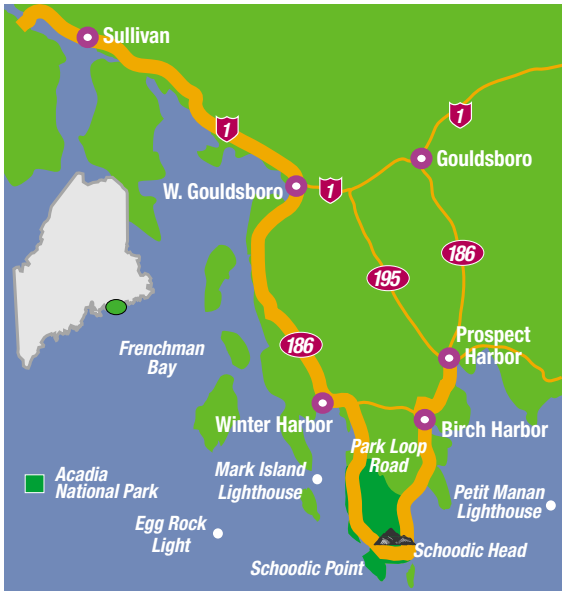




Harbors and  
coves filled  
with wooden  
piers that  
come alive  
with the  
daily catch

# Schoodic National Scenic Byway

*Routes 1 and 186*



The cold North Atlantic waters of the downeast coast served historically as fishing grounds for Native cultures and the earliest Europeans.

To this day, the harbors and coves are filled with lobster boats and wooden piers that come alive with the daily catch. The shoreline is marked by lighthouses, wildflowers, osprey, eagles and views of Cadillac Mountain and Mount Desert Island. Blueberry

Lobstermen work the cold North Atlantic waters using traps to catch the popular delicacy.



barrens turn the surrounding hills violet and green in late summer and brilliant scarlet in the autumn. Seaside villages and working

harbors from Sullivan to Prospect Harbor reveal well-preserved

examples of simple New England architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries. This route passes through the only mainland section of Acadia Na-

tional Park and the breathtaking Schoodic Point.

**Length:** 29 miles

**Travel Time:** 1.5 hours

**Recreation:** Bicycling; hiking; kayaking; picnicking; wildlife watching; foliage viewing

**Sidetrips:** Channing Chapel Public Library; Gouldsboro Village Library (National Register); Prospect Harbor Light (National Register); Passenger ferry to Mt. Desert Island; Quarry Wharf; Old Sullivan Stone Store (National Register); Sullivan Library and Historical Society; Tunk Mountain and Donnell Pond

**Events:** Lobster Festival, Sullivan Daze; Farmstead Barn; Annual Trade Day; Schoodic Arts Festival

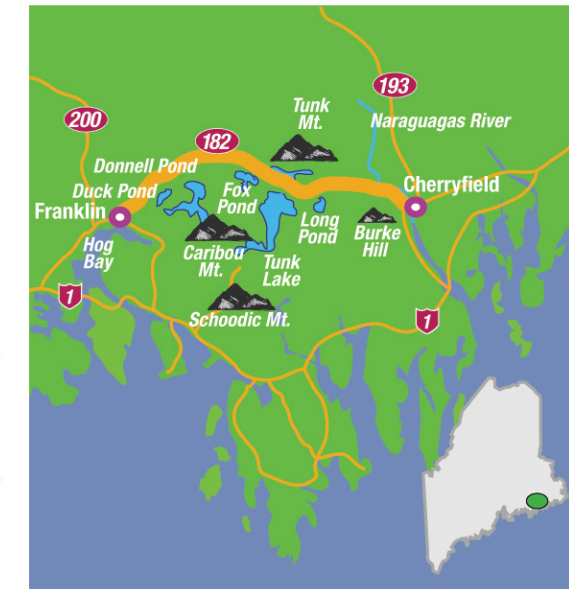
**Information:** [www.schoodicbyway.org](http://www.schoodicbyway.org); Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce: 207-963-7658, [www.acadia-schoodic.org](http://www.acadia-schoodic.org)



Great gray  
owls and  
bald eagles  
can be seen  
here soaring  
among the  
trees or  
over  
blueberry  
barrens

# State Route 182

*Blackwoods Road*



A few miles from busy U.S. Route 1 and worlds away from the bustle, great gray owls and bald eagles can be seen soaring among the trees or over blueberry barrens along this quiet two-lane highway.

The towns of Cherryfield and Franklin, which serve as gateways to this byway, offer many good examples of 18th and 19th century architecture, as well as the chance to experience rural small town life.

Cherryfield is known as the “Wild Blue-berry Capital of the World” — the delicious berries are grown

in abundance on nearby hillsides and harvested in late July and early August.

Wild blueberries grow well on the nearby rocky hills and are harvested in late summer.



Travelers will be interested to know that this scenic route is named for Colonel John Black whose family owned much of the forestland

in this region during the first half of the 19th century — rather than for the stately forest that lines the roadway.

There is public access to hiking trails and boat launches nearby at Donnell Pond and Tunk Lake.

**Length:** 3 miles

**Travel Time:** 1 hour

**Recreation:** Bicycling; boating; fishing; hiking; hunting; picnicking; wildlife watching; foliage viewing

**Sidetrips:** Donnell Pond Public Reserve Land; Schoodic Mountain; birdwatching on Hog Bay

**Events:** Wild Blueberry Festival

**Information:** Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce: 800-231-3008, [www.acadia-schoodic.org](http://www.acadia-schoodic.org)

Tunk Mountain.  
James H. Fisher



Front-row  
seating  
for the  
vast and  
impressive  
views  
both east  
and west

# Million Dollar View Scenic Byway

U.S. Route 1

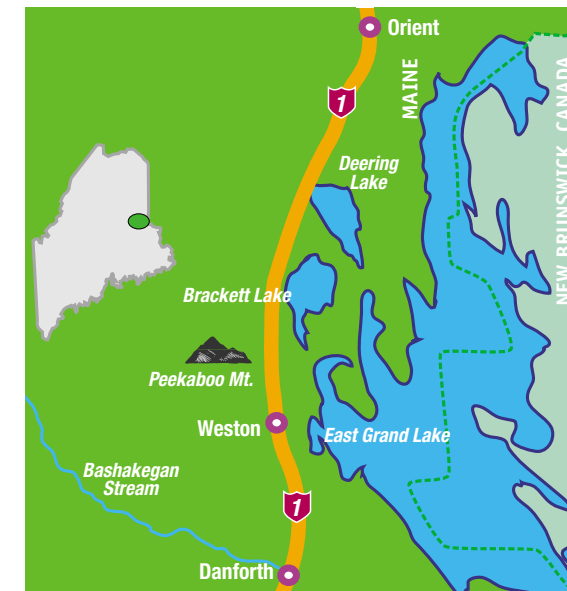
Here a warm welcome awaits the traveler in the rural communities along the byway route. Aptly called the "Million Dollar View", this stretch of U. S. Route 1

offers travelers unsurpassed views of the Chiputneticook chain of lakes including East Grand, Brackett and Deering (all teeming with fish). Travelers can also view rolling hayfields, Mount Katahdin, Peekaboo Mountain and the landscape of New Brunswick, Canada. Travelers may spot local wildlife

including bears, deer, eagles, loons and moose.

Scenic turnouts provide front-row seating for the vast and impressive views to the east and west.

Danforth, a former lumber town in the Baskahegan River Valley, marks the southerly limit of the byway and provides many small-town amenities. Weston is the location of an historic portage used by Native cultures and early settlers connecting Baskahegan Stream to Butterfield Landing on East



Grand Lake. Weston also has many interesting historic buildings such as the Weston Community Church, which was moved across the ice of East

Grand Lake from Canada, as well as modern accommodations of the First Settler's Lodge.

The byway reaches its high point near the top of Peekaboo Mountain, and travelers may continue north to explore Aroostook County or enter New Brunswick, Canada, through Orient's border crossing.

**Length:** 8 miles

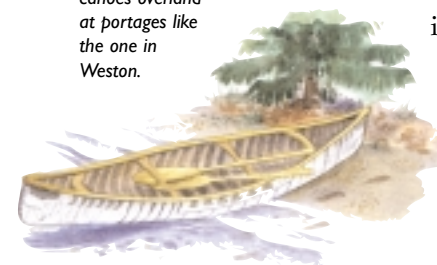
**Travel Time:** 1 hour

**Recreation:** Crosscountry skiing; fishing; four-wheeling; hiking; canoeing; kayaking; sailing; boating; snowmobiling, wildlife watching; leaf-peeping

**Events:** Ice Fishing Derby; sailing/boating regattas and canoe/kayak races, Danforth "Summerfest"

**Contacts:** Town of Weston Administrator, 207-448-2316 and e-mail, [townofweston@nci2.net](mailto:townofweston@nci2.net); Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce 207-448-7381 and e-mail, [ericg@nci2.net](mailto:ericg@nci2.net)

*Native cultures and early settlers traversed the region's lakes and rivers, carrying their canoes overland at portages like the one in Weston.*



*Early morning mist in Danforth. Douglas Merriam*



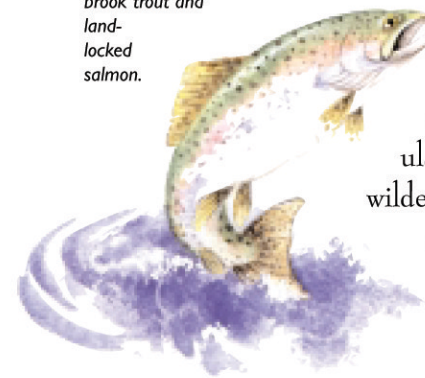
Unparalleled  
views of  
wildflower  
meadows,  
Eagle Lake  
and Maine's  
highest  
peak,  
Mt.  
Katahdin

Settled by French-Acadians in the 19th century, this topmost of Maine's scenic byways traverses the rolling lands between Portage and Fort Kent.

The landscape provides travelers with unparalleled views of wildflower meadows, Eagle Lake and Maine's highest peak, Mt. Katahdin. Much of the route is forested, and wildlife abounds, including eagles, moose, landlocked salmon, brook trout and beaver. Camping, fishing, hiking, hunting and snowmobiling are popular activities here, with wilderness camps lining the shores of the area's lakes.

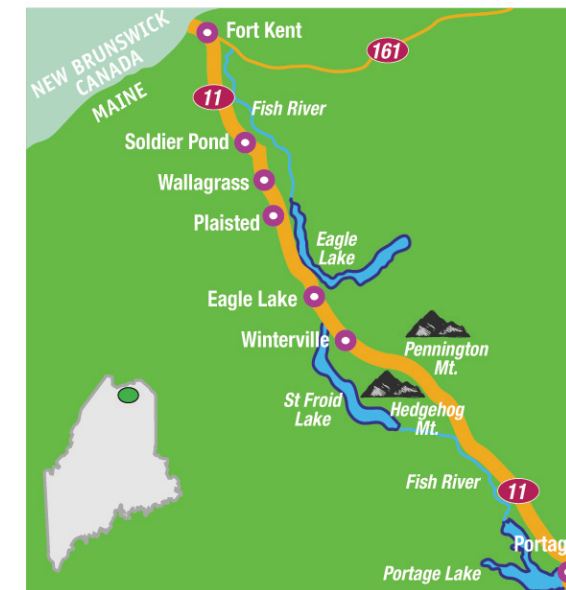
Route 11 is a primary north-south transportation corridor connecting Aroostook County, Maine,

Sportmen come from all corners to fish for brook trout and landlocked salmon.



# State Route 11

St. John Valley



and New Brunswick, Canada. The byway's northern gateway is at historic Fort Kent, where in 1839, the U.S. constructed a blockhouse to protect its claim on the northern woods. This region retains a strong Acadian influence in its food and cultural traditions.

**Length:** 37 miles

**Travel Time:** 1 hour

**Recreation:** Boating; camping; fishing; golf; hiking; hunting; snowmobiling; swimming; wildlife watching; foliage viewing

**Sidetrips:** Fort Kent Blockhouse (National Historic Landmark); Fort Kent Historical Society; Allagash Wilderness Waterway; Aroostook State Park

**Events:** Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Races, West Sip Pow Wow, Old Home Days, Annual Ployes Festival, Tour de la Vallée bicycle race, Annual Scarecrow Festival, Mardi Gras Festival

**Information:** Greater Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-733-3563, [www.fortkentchamber.com](http://www.fortkentchamber.com)